



Central Office: 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, CT 06109 Phone (860) 721-2822 Fax (860) 721-2823
Berlin: 240 Kensington Road, Berlin, CT 06037 Phone (860) 828-7017 Fax (860) 828-9248
Newington: 131 Cedar Street, Newington, CT 06111 Phone (860) 665-8586 Fax (860) 665-8533
Rocky Hill: 761 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067 Phone (860) 258-2770 Fax (860) 258-2767
www.ccthd.org

**BOARD OF HEALTH
TESTIMONY
February 23, 2017**

Chairman:

**Judith A. Sartucci
Rocky Hill, CT**

Vice-Chairman:

**Patricia J. Checko
Berlin, CT**

Secretary-Treasurer:

**Charles K. Brown, Jr.
Director of Health**

John Aforismo

Wethersfield, CT

Ann Marie Diloreto

Wethersfield, CT

Deborah Henault

Wethersfield, CT

Raymond Jarema

Berlin, CT

Jerilyn Nagel

Newington, CT

Michele Sadlosky

Newington, CT

Lia Safalow

Rocky Hill, CT

Marti Stiglich

Rocky Hill, CT

Carolyn Wysocki

Berlin, CT

**HB No. 7027, AAC the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2019
and Making Appropriations Therefore**

TO: Members of the Appropriations Committee

This testimony is submitted on behalf of the Board of Health of the Central Connecticut Health District (CCHD). CCHD is one of 20 regional local public health departments in Connecticut, also known as “health districts”. CCHD serves nearly 98,000 people in our 4 member towns of Berlin, Newington, Rocky Hill, and Wethersfield.

We oppose the proposed reduction in state aid by 20% (\$920,020) for local and district departments of health in this proposed budget.

In Connecticut all local public health is decentralized and separate from the Connecticut Department of Public Health. Local public health is therefore at the front lines of prevention, protection and promotion of the health of our communities. The demands on local public health departments continue to increase as our agencies respond to emerging infections such as Ebola, new epidemics such as the Zika virus, the opioid crisis and the critical demands of our basic work in environmental health – protection of our food and water and assuring safety in venues such as schools, day care centers and swimming pools through our inspection and permitting activities.

This Biennium’s proposed reductions will be the latest in several years of rescissions and reductions in state aid to local public health. Since 2009 our Health District alone has lost more than \$507,000 in funding from this state grant-in-aid. The cumulative effect has weakened the ability of our Health District to provide critical services to our member towns.

We urge you to rescind these proposed cuts.

We would be happy to provide further information on any of the above. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

Sincerely,

Judith A. Sartucci, MSN, RN
Chairman
Board of Health

Charles K. Brown, Jr., MPH
Board of Health Secretary/Treasurer
and District Director of Health



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.